

Freezing Reign

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Summary: All is well as Arendelle celebrates the wedding of Princess Anna and Kristoff. But when a new threat emerges, can Queen Elsa find the courage to defend her throne and save her sister?

1. Chapter 1

It was a beautiful summer morning and all was well in the land of Arendelle. Colorful banners and flowers decorated the city, and the harbor was filled with ships from lands near and far. Not since Queen Elsa's coronation had Arendelle seen such excitement. Even then, there hadn't been nearly as many visitors in Arendelle as there were now. Arendelle was a small kingdom that had kept itself isolated for years, and the young queen had been greeted mostly by minor representatives from nearby trading partners. But now, tales of the events that followed her coronation had spread across the globe, and Queen Elsa's reputation was known far and wide. Leaders from all over the world wanted an opportunity to gain favor with Arendelle and its powerful ruler, and they all recognized the upcoming opportunity. After all, the wedding of a princess was a particularly momentous occasion.

Inside the castle, Gerda was helping Princess Anna get dressed. Behind the privacy screen in her bedroom, Anna was fidgeting with nervous excitement.

"Your Highness, please hold still," Gerda said, as she tightened the laces of the bodice on Anna's white dress.

"But it's my wedding day!" Anna exclaimed. "How am I supposed to stay still when I'm so excited?"

"I know you're excited, but the more you move, the longer this will take."

Suddenly there was a knock on the bedroom door.

"Who is it?" Anna asked playfully.

"It's me," came Elsa's voice from the other side of the door.

"Did you put on the dress?"

"Yes, Anna."

"Get in here! I want to see!"

The door opened and Elsa stepped into the room wearing a sleek lavender gown. The off-the-shoulder dress was very much in Elsa's style, but it had no train and had traditional rosemaling subtly embroidered on the skirt. As Elsa closed the bedroom door behind her, Anna excitedly tried to run out from behind the room divider, but was pulled back by Gerda.

"I'm not finished with you yet, Your Highness," Gerda said, guiding Anna back to where she was standing. Undeterred, Anna peeked over the top of the divider.

"Ooh, I knew that dress would be perfect for you," Anna said. "Don't you just love it?"

"I'll admit it is very nice," Elsa said, looking down at the dress, "but I still don't see why I couldn't just wear one of my own dresses."

"Because it's my wedding, Elsa, and I want it to be special," Anna said. "After all, I'm only going to get married once. And, when you get married, I'll wear whatever you want me to."

"If I get married," Elsa said.

"Now, Your Majesty, don't say that," Gerda said. "You never know what might be in your future. I hear there are several eligible princes coming to the wedding."

"Is that what's expected of me?" Elsa asked defiantly. "Am I just supposed to marry the first handsome prince who comes along?"

"Of course not!" Gerda said. "That's not what I meant at all. I'm simply suggesting that you might like one of them if you don't have your mind made up before you've even met them."

"We didn't have to invite them," Anna offered.

"Yes we did, Anna." Elsa replied. "Arendelle has a lot to make up for after years of isolation. We need new allies and trading partners, and inviting them was a gesture of goodwill to help build those relationships. But that doesn't mean I'm looking for a husband!"

"Elsa, no one says you have to marry anyone," Anna said. "But, the way I feel about Kristoff... I hope that someday you'll feel that way about someone. You just need to keep yourself open to new possibilities."

"You mean like the way you were open to marrying Hans?" Elsa asked cynically.

"That's not fair," Anna replied. "Although, if you think about it, if I hadn't agreed to marry Hans, I never would have met Kristoff."

"Yes, and aside from the part where Hans left you for dead and tried to kill me so he could take over Arendelle, it all worked out splendidly," Elsa said sarcastically.

"Well, it did!" Anna countered.

"Now, now, don't argue," Gerda said. "This is a happy day."

"I'm sorry," Elsa said with a sigh. "I understand what you're trying to tell me. Anna, I see what you and Kristoff have, and I'm not going to settle for anything less for myself."

"And we wouldn't want you to, Elsa," Anna replied. "But, we don't want you to miss out on it either."

"There," Gerda announced as she made the final adjustments to Anna's dress. "I'm finished."

Anna stepped out from behind the divider. Her white gown was trimmed with lavender ribbon that matched Elsa's dress. Elsa found herself unprepared for the sight of her sister in her wedding dress and simply stood in awe for a moment.

"What do you think?" Anna asked her sister.

"You look beautiful," Elsa eventually replied.

Suddenly the door burst open and a diminutive snowman burst in carrying a huge bouquet of purple crocuses that was almost bigger than he was.

"Olaf!" Anna exclaimed. "What are you doing?"

"I got these flowers for your wedding!" Olaf said, handing over the bouquet to the princess. "It took me a long time. I had to search all over Arendelle to find them all!"

"They're beautiful, Olaf, thank you!" Anna said, struggling to hold up the large bouquet.

Kai appeared in the open doorway and gently knocked on the open door.

"I'm sorry to interrupt," Kai said, "but some of our more distinguished guests are arriving."

"Thank you, Kai," Elsa replied. She took a deep breath and turned to Anna. "I should go meet them."

"Good luck!" Anna said as Elsa followed Kai out of the room.

Kai led Elsa down the stairs and through the great hall, where the palace staff were setting up for the wedding ball.

"Are they going to be finished in time?" Elsa asked, looking around. "Do they need any help?"

"Everything is under control," Kai replied. "Everything will be ready."

"What about ice?" Elsa asked. "Do they have enough ice? I can make more."

"There's plenty of ice, Your Majesty," Kai said, gently guiding Elsa through the hall.

Elsa's eyes kept darting around the room, searching for an issue that demanded her attention. Finally, she focused on something and broke away from Kai.

"No, no, no, no, no, this is a disaster," she said, running toward a cart covered with floral centerpieces. Kai reluctantly followed her.

"What's wrong, Your Majesty?" Kai asked.

"Look at these centerpieces!" Elsa exclaimed. "These arrangements are terrible. They're a mess." She started to rearrange the flowers. "These flowers aren't evenly arranged, and there are no purple crocuses. They have to have purple crocuses. It's the symbol of Arendelle."

"I'm sure the florist will fix them in time for the wedding," Kai said. "Now, come along, Your Majesty."

Kai led a reluctant Elsa away from the flower cart and toward the door. Elsa desperately looked back over her shoulder at the floral arrangements.

"But... the centerpieces..." she muttered as Kai led her out of the room.

2. Chapter 2

Elsa was not looking forward to welcoming guests for the wedding. Normally, this was a task she would delegate to Anna, who was always eager to meet new people. But with Anna occupied with wedding preparations, Elsa found she had little choice but to greet guests herself.

With the great hall being decorated for the wedding ball, Elsa had to greet visitors in the foyer, which really didn't matter to her, but it would make the formal royal introductions more difficult. There was already a visiting prince there waiting for her when she got there. Even Kai seemed surprised he was there.

"Queen Elsa of Arendelle," Kai announced abruptly as he practically pushed Elsa ahead of him.

"Ah, Queen Elsa," the prince said with a bow. "I am Prince Lloyd of Prydain. It is an honor and a delight to meet you."

Prince Lloyd was a small, wiry man. Elsa might have mistaken him for a teenage boy if she didn't know he had to be older. Though he was dressed in some sort of militaristic uniform, Elsa very much doubted the fair-haired young man had seen any kind of action and she assumed he merely held an honorary position.

"Welcome to Arendelle, Prince Lloyd," Elsa replied. "It is nice to meet you as well."

"I must say, Your Majesty," Prince Lloyd said, "you are even more beautiful than I had dared to imagine."

"Oh, um, thank you," Elsa replied, caught off guard by the prince's confidence. "Have you been enjoying your visit so far?"

"Indeed. Your kingdom is magnificent and your subjects are kind and cheerful; a tribute to your benevolent rule."

Elsa could see through the excessive compliments but she still found herself being taken in by the flattery. Prince Lloyd seemed charming enough in his way. Elsa was optimistic that if the other princes were like him, she would be able to tolerate their visits.

Suddenly the castle doors burst open, and a large man swaggered in. His curly orange hair was tied back, but he also had a full untrimmed beard. He was dressed in green tartan, including a kilt, leaving no doubt in Elsa's mind where he was from.

"Greetings!" he exclaimed loudly in a Scottish accent. "I am Prince Hamish of Dunbroch."

"Queen Elsa of Arendelle," Elsa introduced herself.

"Your Majesty," Prince Hamish said with a bow, "it is a pleasure to make your acquaintance."

"Thank you," Elsa said. "Have you met Prince Lloyd of Prydain?"

"Aye, that I have, many times," Hamish replied. "Our kingdoms are actually quite near each other. Isn't that so, Laddie?"

"Yes, that's true," Lloyd said, his confidence having faded. "I've been to Dunbroch many times."

"Aye, the first time he came to Dunbroch," Hamish began, "I took him to see the Fire Falls, which is an incredible sight. You really should come and see it for yourself, Your Majesty. Anyway, on the way back to me castle, we come across a family o' bears blockin' the way."

"Bears?" Elsa said in surprise. "Oh my, whatever did you do?"

"Oh, bears are easy to handle if you know what you're doin'. Usually, they're more afraid o' you than you are o' them. But the cubs don't have any fear in 'em yet. One o' the wee ones scampered toward Lloyd 'ere, and he took off a'runnin. Almost climbed up a tree, he did."

"I certainly did not try to climb a tree," Lloyd protested, "but I

think running was a perfectly reasonable reaction to being charged by a bear."

"Charged by a bear? T'was just a wee cub. Wouldn'a hurt a fly. Now the mother, she was somethin'. When she reared up on her hind legs she was so tall I couldn'a see the sun. She must've been twenty feet tall. Now, I had me bow and arrows, so I could have easily killed the beast, but it wouldn'a been right to leave those wee cubs without their mum. So, with just me staff and shield, I faced the monster and held it off long enough for the others to get away.

"Twenty feet tall, indeed," Prince Lloyd scoffed. "It was no more than half that. I swear that bear grows taller every time you tell that story."

"Aye, maybe so," Prince Hamish replied with a hearty laugh as he gave Prince Lloyd a slap on the back that nearly knocked the smaller man over. "But 'tis a grand story ne'ertheless."

"Now see here, Hamish," Lloyd said with annoyance. "There's no need to be so rough."

"Right you are, Laddie," Hamish replied. "'Tis no way to behave in front of a lady, much less a queen. My apologies, Your Majesty."

"Queen Elsa," interrupted Kai, who had regained control over the doors to the castle and was now able to properly introduce newcomers as they arrived, "May I present Prince Kiran of Maldonia."

"Welcome, Prince Kiran," Elsa said as the new visitor approached. "It is a pleasure to meet you."

"The pleasure is all mine, to be in the presence of such radiant elegance," the dark-haired Prince Kiran replied in a vaguely French-sounding accent. "I have traveled a great distance for the joy of being in your company during this festive occasion."

"Why, thank you," Elsa replied.

"Yes, I can see it already. Fine food. Beautiful music." Kiran looked deep into Elsa's eyes as he continued. "Lovely company. It will be truly magical."

Elsa wasn't quite sure how to respond to Kiran, but fortunately Kai interrupted with the arrival of another visitor.

"Prince Amir of Agrabah," announced Kai.

"Queen Elsa, I have journeyed from afar to join you for this momentous celebration," Amir said.

"It is my pleasure to welcome you to Arendelle, Prince Amir," Elsa replied.

"This is an exquisite castle, Your Majesty," Amir said.

"Thank you," Elsa said.

"Of course, it's nothing compared to my palace in Agrabah," Amir

continued. "You should come for a visit, Your Majesty. You would adore it. It is truly spectacular, furnished with the finest tapestries, the most incredible carpets..."

"Listen to yourself," Prince Hamish interrupted. "You're talkin' 'bout carpets and tapestries. That do'na impress anyone. We all 'ave castles full o' tapestries. If you're going to impress a queen, you 'ave to demonstrate strength. Like the time I..."

"Oh, not another one of your stories," Lloyd interrupted.

"What's wrong with me stories?" Hamish asked.

"There wouldn't be anything wrong them if you stuck to what actually happened instead of exaggerating everything." Lloyd replied.

"Personally, I think that actions speak louder than words," Kiran said. "Don't you agree, Your Majesty?"

Before Elsa could respond, the doors flew open with the sudden arrival of another visitor, catching everyone by surprise.

"Queen Elsa," the newcomer announced loudly. "It is I, Prince Edward of Andalusia. At long last I have arrived in your fair land, and I see I have arrived just in time. It seems your castle is besieged with foreign invaders."

Prince Edward's hand grasped the hilt of his sheathed sword, and Elsa wasn't sure if he was simply teasing the other princes or if he genuinely considered them a threat. Before she could say anything, Prince Hamish stepped forward to confront Edward.

"Who're you callin' an invader, Laddie?" Hamish asked Edward.

"Your Majesty, perhaps you should withdraw to a safe place while I deal with this barbarian," Edward said to Elsa as he began to draw his sword.

"No!" Elsa abruptly shouted, and a hush fell across the assembled princes, almost as if a sudden chill had settled in throughout the room. Elsa quickly regained her composure. She hadn't meant to react so loudly, but she was relieved that at least a war hadn't just broken out in her foyer. "I mean, that's not necessary, Prince Edward," she said. "These are simply other visitors, like yourself. This is Prince Hamish of Dunbroch, Prince Kiran of Maldonia, Prince Amir of Agrabah, and Prince Lloyd of Prydain."

"Other princes?" Edward said, seeming for a moment as if the very concept was alien to him. Then he simply shrugged and returned his sword to its sheath. "As you wish, Your Majesty, but rest assured, I would not hesitate to defend you against any menace that might threaten you, be it vile ogre or fearsome dragon."

"Ogres and dragons?" Lloyd scoffed. "What nonsense."

"There's no such thing as ogres, but dragons are real. I saw one with me own eyes." Hamish said.

"You have not seen a dragon," said Lloyd dismissively.

"I did indeed. It was on a deserted island guardin' a cave filled with treasure, a giant fire-breathin' beast. I barely escaped with me life."

"The way you tell stories, you probably just saw a lizard crawl out of a hole." Lloyd said.

"Or maybe a frog," Kiran added with a laugh. "Perhaps if you had kissed it, it would have turned into a princess!"

Lloyd and Amir joined Kiran in laughing at Hamish's claims of seeing a dragon, while Edward just seemed to be confused. Elsa, for her part, was already beginning to find the princes rather tiresome. She loudly cleared her throat to get their attention and they all promptly straightened up and fell silent.

"Our apologies, Queen Elsa," said Prince Lloyd. "Clearly our behavior has been most unbecoming, and on behalf of all of us, I ask for your forgiveness. I am certain we will all try our utmost to remain civil from this point forward."

"I've heard that Arendelle has a magnificent art collection," Prince Amir said, trying to move on.

"Yes, we do," Elsa said.

"It would be wonderful to have a chance to view it," Amir said.

"Well, I suppose that..." Elsa began, considering the idea.

"Yes! A tour! What a splendid idea!" Edward suddenly exclaimed, interrupting.

"I certainly appreciate viewing works of great beauty," Kiran said, locking eyes with Elsa.

Elsa rolled her eyes.

"Very well," Elsa said, motioning toward the door. "If you will all come with me, the art gallery is this way."

As she turned, Elsa shot Kai a look of weary resignation.

"Your Majesty, may I have a moment of your time before you go," Kai said.

"What is it, Kai?" Elsa asked.

"The delegation from Enchancia is due to arrive shortly," Kai said. "Perhaps I could escort our guests on their tour while you remain here to welcome them."

"Of course, Kai," Elsa said. "That is an excellent idea."

"Gentlemen," Kai began. "if your will follow me..."

"Thank you," Elsa whispered with sincere gratitude to Kai as he

walked past her.

"Of course, Your Majesty," Kai whispered back, pausing next to her.

"They are all leaving after the wedding, right?" Elsa asked quietly.

"In the morning," Kai replied.

Elsa nodded and Kai continued on his way, leading the five princes on their tour. Elsa watched with relief as the princes disappeared through the door. She had a feeling it was going to be a long day.

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